

Is God Really In Control?

*"Does He Or Doesn't He?", Part 3 of 3
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"Let everyone in the world...stand in awe of the Lord. For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command. The Lord shatters the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken." (Psalm 33:8-11, NLT)

I) IF GOD IS IN CONTROL, HOW DOES IT WORK?

Two Kinds of Control

1) God controls the world by PROVIDENCE. (His active will)

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."
(Proverbs 16:9, NIV see also 16:1, 20:24, 21:1, 21:31)

2) God controls the world by PERMISSION. (His passive will)

"The Lord has made everything for his own purposes, even the wicked for punishment."
(Proverbs 16:4, NLT see also 21:2, 29:13)

II) A BIG QUESTION: DO I HAVE ANY CONTROL?

1) God's answer: YES, BUT IT'S LIMITED CONTROL.

"You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail."
(Proverbs 19:21, NLT)

2) God's reason: HE IS SOVEREIGN.

"Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom."
(1 Chronicles 29:11a, LB)

III) WHAT DOES GOD'S CONTROL MEAN TO ME?

Because God Is In Control...

(Psalm 33, cont.)

1) I don't have to PLAY GOD, He rules.

"Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord; happy are the people he has chosen for his own."
(Psalm 33:12, TEV)

2) I don't have to CHANGE OTHERS, He understands.

"The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts so he understands everything they do."
(Psalm 33:13-15, NLT)

3) I don't have to WORRY OVER LIFE, He manages.

"The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you. But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love."
(Psalm 33:16-19, NLT)

4) I don't have to DIRECT MY DESTINY, He protects.

"We depend on the Lord alone to save us. Only he can help us, protecting us like a shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we are trusting in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone." (Psalm 33:20-22, NLT)

5) I do have to YIELD MY HEART, He's Lord.

"Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as being in control of everything."
(1 Chronicles 29:11, LB)